

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 15, 2016

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CARRIE SANDERS, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – REVIEW OF FY 2022-FY 2023 HOUSE BILL TWO GRANT DRAFT PROJECTS

ISSUE: Review of draft projects which are proposed to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) for Transportation Projects Seeking FY 2022-FY 2023 House Bill Two (HB2) Funding.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission review and endorse the following projects with preliminary cost estimates (projects would be submitted individually and prioritized in the following order):

- 1) West End Transitway - \$20,000,000
- 2) DASH Bus and Facility Expansion – \$7,000,000
- 3) Duke Street at Telegraph Road Ramp Widening - \$10,000,000
- 4) Traffic Adaptive Signal Control Fiber-Optic - \$7,000,000
- 5) Backlick Run Trail - \$3,882,000

BACKGROUND: In 2014, HB2 was signed into law. The law requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and implement a quantifiable and transparent prioritization process for making funding decisions for capacity enhancing projects within the six-year improvement program. The goal of HB2 is to ensure the state invests limited tax dollars into projects that meet critical transportation needs. The first round of HB2, which provides funds to projects from FY 2017 – FY 2021, will be approved by the CTB on June 15, 2016. The second round of HB2 will be for projects seeking funding for FY 2022 – FY 2023.

The application period will open on August 1, 2016 and all applications will be due by September 30, 2016. After applications are submitted, staff from VDOT and DRPT will screen candidate projects to determine if they qualify to be scored. Selected projects will be scored in the fall and winter 2016. In January 2017, a list of all submitted projects and their scores will be submitted to the CTB and will be posted on-line. In April or May 2017, the draft Six Year Plan will be released by the CTB, followed by public hearings and a public comment period to gather input. The CTB is expected to make its final decision on which projects to fund through the second round of HB2 in June 2017.

The following factors will be used to score submitted projects: congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, environmental quality, and land use. Different weights will be assigned to such factors based on a project's location within a region of the state. Within Northern Virginia, congestion mitigation is the highest weighted factor at 45%; land use at 20%; accessibility at 15%; environmental quality at 10%; economic development at 5%; and safety at 5%.

DISCUSSION: Staff has developed the following list of projects, in order of priority, based on the guidelines and criteria outlined in the HB2 process. Staff would like the Transportation Commission's endorsement of the following project list: West End Transitway - \$20,000,000 – Will provide permanent transitway improvements through Southern Towers and transit center enhancements.

DASH Bus and Facility Expansion – \$7,000,000 - DASH bus fleet expansion and facility expansion to accommodate increased bus fleet, provide expanded services on existing routes and new services on new/restructured routes.

Duke Street at Telegraph Road Ramp Widening - \$10,000,000 - Project will construct a second lane on the eastbound Duke Street ramp onto Telegraph Road to alleviate the daily traffic congestion the spills over into the residential areas.

Traffic Adaptive Signal Control Fiber Optic - \$7,000,000 - Project will improve traffic flow through the City of Alexandria by implementing a traffic signal system that can optimize traffic signal operation based on the actual traffic flow in real-time.

Backlick Run Trail - \$3,882,000 - Extend the existing Backlick Run Trail to the west along the north side of Backlick Run to the Alexandria / Fairfax County line. This project is recommended in the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, and is also a priority trail project in the Pedestrian and Bicycle chapter of the Transportation Master Plan. This project is partially funded in the FY16-25 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.